

TRIBUTE TO DEL PAPA
DISTRIBUTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, this month Del Papa Distributing Company is celebrating its 100th anniversary. I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the owners and employees of the Del Papa Distributing Company.

The Del Papa Distributing Company originated in 1910 as a wholesaler grocery and wine business called Celli and Del Papa in Galveston, Texas. The grocery store was founded by two Italian immigrants, Frank Celli and Omro Del Papa, Sr. Misters Celli and Del Papa ran the business until Mr. Del Papa returned to Italy in 1920. Mr. Del Papa retained his business and real estate interests in Galveston and he returned to Texas in 1930. Upon his return, Mr. Del Papa established the O. Del Papa Commission Company, and became a distributor for the Anheuser-Busch company. Since the United States was still under Prohibition at that time, the Del Papa Commission Company distributed baker's yeast, olive oil, and ginger ale. When prohibition ended, the Del Papa Distributing Company began distributing beer. In the early 1960s the company's name was changed to The Del Papa Distributing Company.

The Del Papa Distributing Company has always been a family business. Over the years, all of Mr. Del Papa's sons have worked in the business, including the current chairman of the board, Lawrence J. Del Papa, Sr., who first worked for the company in 1939 as a delivery man. Today, Omero Del Papa's grandson, Larry Del Papa, Jr., serves as President of the company, a position he has held since 1988.

The Del Papa Distributing Company has come a long way since Frank Celli and Omro Del Papa opened their small grocery store in Galveston. Today, the company has major distribution centers in Galveston, Beaumont, and Victoria, over 2,700 retail accounts covering 17 counties, and 350 employees distributing over 350 beer brands. There is even a street named for the company at the intersection of Business 59 and Del Papa Street in Galveston.

The Del Papa Distributing Company has survived major hurricanes, two world wars, and the 1947 explosion in Texas City, which is the worst man-made disaster in American history. Every time their community has faced a challenge, the owners and employees of Del Papa Distributing Company stepped up to help their fellow citizens. Everyone at the Del Papa Distributing Company takes great pride in their tradition of civic and charitable involvement. The Del Papa Distributing Company has initiated and assisted with many community service activities from blood drives to military programs to disaster relief. The Del Papa Distributing Company also donates to CASA, Children's Advocacy Center, and The Arts of Victoria, created a GI Joe/GI Jane holiday care package project to support the troops who must spend the holidays overseas away from their families. The Del Papa Distributing Company has also been a major contributor to the fundraising efforts of numerous wildlife organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Coastal Conservation Association and the Rocky

Mountain Elks organization. The Del Papa Distributing Company has also participated in the Keep Texas Beautiful Campaigns.

The Del Papa Distributing Company is also a co-founder of the Galveston Black Heritage foundation and a supporter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC. The Del Papa Distributing Company also partners with Anheuser-Busch to promote responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages through the "Responsibility Matters" program.

Madam Speaker, anyone familiar with Del Papa Distributing Company's history of civic involvement should hardly be surprised that the company kicked off its 100th anniversary celebrations with the announcement that it would endow scholarships to 13 community and four-year colleges located through the 17 counties they service.

The Del Papa Distributing Company is truly a great Texan and American success story and the company's long history of civic and charitable involvement should serve as inspiration to all. It is therefore my pleasure to once again extend my congratulations and best wishes to the owners and employees of the Del Papa Distributing Company on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MILO DEUEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Milo Deuel, a World War II Army veteran from Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Milo Deuel was recognized on Tuesday, October 12. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: MILO DEUEL

(By Greg Eckstrom)

Before going into the service, Milo Deuel had read of a soldier who had been in the civil war and carried a little Bible with him in his breast pocket. The soldier in the story had gotten shot with a mini ball, and the Bible had ended up saving his life.

So when Deuel joined the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps while in junior college in Missouri, and was called to active duty, he brought with him a small book given to him by his Methodist minister, entitled "Strength for Service to God and Country." As his service brought him around the world, he chronicled the places he had been on the back leaf of the book, serving as a memory for the places he'd gone and the things he'd seen.

Commonly, veterans have a difficult time recalling experiences from war to non-veterans because it can be a painful experience. Deuel is similar in this way, however his little book provides him reminders with each neatly-printed location and date on the back leaf.

"They won't say a thing about it," Deuel said. "My wife says I'm the same way, and the older I got, the more liberal I got with what I did and what happened. But some things that happened I don't really care to think about or talk about."

Yet, with the bad comes the good—the camaraderie amongst soldiers, the experience

one gains by being a part of history and the stories that come from service.

Deuel was sent to Camp Roberts in California in 1943, where he was trained for desert warfare. He learned how to endure high temperatures, how to get along with little water and how to shoot, Deuel said. After his training, he was given a short furlough to go home and say goodbye to his family before heading back to the west coast and then overseas.

Deuel remembered well being stationed in the Guadalcanal Islands and "distinguishing himself," although not in a heroic fashion. Heading home from a movie, he noticed coconuts scattered on the ground around trees, and felt the urge to cut one open and have a drink.

"I had never seen a coconut tree before in my life," he said. "I didn't know that when a coconut fell on the ground and laid there several days or weeks, the milk fermented and made a soap-like substance. I ended up in the base hospital in Guadalcanal for 10 days drinking paregoric. It had a terrible taste to it. After a while, about the third or fourth day, it tasted pretty good."

From Guadalcanal, he went to Munda, New Georgia, where he "went on a few patrols."

"I'm glad I didn't have to fight anybody, but that jungle warfare really didn't appeal to me," Deuel said.

Neither did the late-night wake-ups from Japanese aircraft in the area.

"They had a big air strip in there covered with white coral," he said. "The Japanese would send a lone plane around midnight two or three times a week to keep us awake. We called him 'Midnight Charlie.' He'd come over, and the anti-aircraft guns would open up. They never hit him, but it'd keep us awake."

After serving between 6-8 weeks in New Georgia, Deuel was sent to New Zealand, which he described as "a Godsend."

"It was just like going from green hell to green heaven," he said. "And they treated us like kings down there. One of the great treats was to have fresh milk and ice cream, which we hadn't seen for several weeks."

It was during Deuel's four months in New Zealand that he found himself moved to regimental supply—a position that saw him distributing rations to the troops. Pleasing the troops was his job, one that was made easy when the rations were bigger.

"I was really popular then, which wasn't very often," he joked.

He then went to Papua New Guinea, followed by a stint in Luzon, where he saw his "most exciting" days of his service in the Invasion of Luzon on Jan. 9, 1945.

Regimental supply was divided into two teams, and offloaded from the troop ship in a bay to a landing craft loaded with large drums that appeared to be filled with gasoline. As the fourth or fifth wave to go in on Jan. 9, Deuel's unit was shelled out and had to wait.

"The Japanese had some artillery guns that were hidden back in the hills, and they would let go with those every now and then. We couldn't make the beach, so we sat out in the bay all day and then the following day, the 10th, we went in with no problem at all."

It was in Luzon that Deuel said he learned a powerful lesson working with a Filipino crew.

"I found there you couldn't judge a man by his color," he said. "Whether he was black or brown or white, it was what was in his heart. I made some good friends with the Filipino people."

Deuel recalls one conversation he had with the head Filipino man he worked with—